

global supply chain. This can only be done through candid conversation, one the Nation richly deserves. If our debate draws only from the same talking points that both sides have been using for the last 20 years, the truth will be sidelined as proponents oversell the potential merits of the agreements and opponents oversell the potential pitfalls. That would be a disservice to the country and represent a profound missed opportunity for the President.

Take the pending trade agreement with Korea as an example. This is the most economically meaningful FTA since NAFTA. To help understand the impact of this agreement, I sought the help of the staff of the independent International Trade Commission, ITC. In 2007, the ITC found that the agreement would have a limited impact on job creation, partly because of the assumptions the ITC made in its analysis. Because the economic landscape in 2010 is profoundly different than it was in 2007, I asked staff of the ITC to provide an updated assessment of the agreement using conditions that reflect today's economic reality. Based on these updated results, the FTA has the potential to create about 280,000 new American jobs and boost U.S. economic output by \$27 billion each year.

At the same time, these projections show that thousands of Americans currently employed in manufacturing could lose their jobs. Neither the President nor Congress can ignore these families, and it is our job to enlarge what I call the Winners' Circle to ensure that trade is a benefit to Americans in all our communities.

When American firms and their workers are as competitive as they can be, they can better tap foreign markets opened by trade agreements to spur the domestic economy and produce more good-paying jobs here at home. The Department of Labor's chief economist recently testified that jobs related to international trade typically pay more and offer better benefits. However, when I talk with leading CEOs and labor economists, I hear the same concern: If we want our economy to grow at its full potential, we need more workers with the tools to compete.

In tonight's speech I would like to hear the President talk about proposals that will guarantee workers' career-long, affordable access to continuing education and skills upgrading so that businesses always have the most productive and trained workforce they need. We expand the Winners' Circle by making it easier for workers to move from one job or career to the next and by making America the most attractive place to work and live for anyone who has the skills, the brains, and the ambition to succeed. Making it easier for companies with obsolete technology to retool to meet 21st-century global competition further expands the Winner's Circle. This means a tax system that rewards the global growth of American firms while fostering investment in production and employment here at home.

In the coming months, President Obama has an opportunity to forge a new, bipartisan consensus about trade and increasing foreign competitiveness. If he succeeds at this, not only does he succeed in passing these trade agreements but, far more importantly, he equips Americas workers and businesses to drive the economy forward.

#### NORTHERN CYPRUS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to return to the issue of the legacy of the invasion and ongoing occupation of Northern Cyprus and related human rights violations in the region. The disruption of a Christmas liturgy at the Orthodox Church of Agios Synesios, in Rizokarpaso, by the security services is appalling and should be roundly condemned by people of good will. The town, located in the Karpas region, is an anchor for the remnant of the once thriving Greek Cypriot community, now numbering several hundred mainly aged souls. The faithful had gathered at the church one of only a handful of Orthodox places of worship in the occupied area to have survived intact for a rare service. According to reports, members of the security services entered the church while the liturgy was being celebrated, ordered a halt to the religious service, and forced the worshipers and the priest out of the building before locking the doors.

This sad turn of events has become all too familiar in a region under the effective control of the Turkish military. Of the 500 Orthodox Christian churches, monasteries, chapels and other sacred sites in the north, nearly all have sustained heavy damage, with most desecrated and plundered, including cemeteries. A mere handful, including the Church of Agios Synesios, may occasionally be used for religious services depending upon the whims of the local authorities and the military. The disruption of the Christmas Day liturgy is an affront to the dignity of those attending the service and is part of a disturbing pattern of violation of OSCE commitments on the fundamental freedom of religion, including the right of religious communities to maintain freely accessible places of worship.

A related concern has been the tendency of State Department reports to downplay the difficulties faced by Orthodox Christians seeking to conduct services in northern Cyprus as well as the extent of the region's rich religious cultural heritage. I raised my concerns over the denial of religious freedom in occupied Cyprus when the Committee on Foreign Relations held a nomination hearing for the position of Ambassador-At-Large for International Religious Freedom and will continue to closely monitor the situation in that part of Cyprus.

Under my chairmanship of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe we undertook an examination of the destruction of religious cultural

heritage in that part of Cyprus. Our findings, along with expert testimony were presented at a Commission briefing, "Cyprus' Religious Cultural Heritage in Peril" held on July 21, 2009. I encourage my colleagues and other interested parties to review the materials from that event, available on the Commission's Web site, [www.csce.gov](http://www.csce.gov). A Law Library of Congress report: "Cyprus: Destruction of Cultural Property in the Northern Part of Cyprus and Violations of International Law" was also released at the briefing. In addition to documenting the extensive destruction of such sites, the briefing also touched on infringements of the rights of Orthodox Christians in Northern Cyprus to freely practice their religion.

Those responsible for the interruption and abrupt forcible ending of the Christmas service at the Church of Agios Synesios should issue a formal apology for the boorish act of repression and I call upon all authorities in northern Cyprus to remove restrictions on the free exercise of freedom of religion and other basic human rights in this part of the country under their control.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING BRAD BROOKS

● Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life of a remarkable man, Mr. Carl Bradford Brooks of Fairbanks, AK, who passed away on November 27, 2010. He was 58.

Born on October 25, 1952, Brad was a lifelong Fairbanksan who graduated from Lathrop High School in 1970. Brad was always proud he was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547 and the Public Employees Local 71 unions. During his career, he worked on building the Trans-Alaska pipeline and maintained communication infrastructure across the entire State of Alaska.

Brad fully embraced the spirit of volunteerism as he tirelessly helped make Fairbanks a better place. As a founding member of the Interior Democrats, Brad helped shape the political atmosphere of Interior Alaska for the Alaska Democratic Party for over 30 years. At the time of his passing, Brad was serving on the Executive Committee as communications secretary.

Coming from a family of Eagle Scouts, Brad earned the rank and continued a life of service to the Boy Scouts of America. Thousands of volunteer hours, community service projects and laughs were shared with the boys of Troop 10, the Midnight Sun Council and Lost Lake Scout Camp. Several awards were presented to Brad for his Scouting service including awards from the AFL-CIO and the local Silver Beaver Award. Many young men were mentored, enriched, and encouraged to participate in a life of service to community by Brad's example.